

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00330 221352Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-02
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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6803
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 330

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: BOTHA'S STATEMENT IN WINDHOEK

1. ACCORDING TO FEB. 22 PRESS REPORTS, FOREIGN MINISTER
BOTHA IN WINDHOEK ON FEB. 21 SAID THAT THERE WAS STILL HOPE
FOR AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCETABLE SETTLEMENT TO THE NAMIBIA
PROBLEM. SPEAKING SOON AFTER HIS ARRIVAL FOR TALKS WITH THE
ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL, BOTHA REPORTEDLY SAID SETTLEMENT
DEPENDDED ON THE MEASURE OF RECOGNITION GIVEN TO THE REASONABLENESS
OF THE SOLUTION OFFEREED BY SOUTH AFRICA. BOTHA SAID HE WOULD
CONSULT WITH THE A-G , HIS STAFF, AND SENIOR SOUTH AFRICAN
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. HE WOULD INFORM THEM OF THE RECENT
NEW YORK TALKS AND SUBSEQUENT CONTACT BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA
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PAGE 02 CAPE T 00330 221352Z

AND THE FIVE WESTERN POWERS. THEA-G WOULD IN TURN CONSULT
WITH POLITICAL AND OTHER LEADERS IN NAMIBIA AND REPORT BACK
TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. BOTHA SAID HE DID NOT PLAN
TO HAVE DIRECT TALKS WITH INTERESTED PARTIES IN SWA AT THIS
STAGE.

2. BOTHA REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE WESTERN

POWERS HAD REACHED A STAGE WHEN IT WAS REASONABLY CLEAR TO ALL PARTIES WHERE THEY STOOD. "AT THE MOMENT I THINK IT IS A MATTER OF SEEKING CLARIFICATION, ADAPTATION OF LANGUAGE, EXPRESSIONS AND PHRASES," HE SAID, "TO SEE TO WHAT EXTENT THE EXISTING GAPS CAN BE BRIDGED."

3. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO WAS QUOTED AS SAYING "SOUTH AFRICA TRIED AS FAR AS WAS POSSIBLE TO ADVISE SWA AND POINT OUT ALTERNATIVES WHICH ARE OPEN FOR THE TERRORITY IN THIS INCREASINGLY COMPLEX SITUATION." HE REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD NOT AGREE TO ANYTHING THAT WOULD JEOPARDIZE THE SECURITY OF SWA AND ITS PEOPLE. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS HE REITERATED THAT WALVIS BAY WAS AN INTEGRAL PART OF SOUTH AFRICA AND THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT AND WILL NOT GIVE WAY ON THIS POINT. BOTHA REPORTEDLY ALSO EXPLAINED THERE WAS A MEASURE OF MISUNDERSTANDING OVER SOUTH AFRICA'S POSITION REGARDING SWA, AND HE WANTED TO STRESS THAT SOUTH AFRICA DID NOT MAKE DECISIONS FOR THE TERRITORY.
BOWDLER

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